

Remarks

In response to the Office Action mailed February 22, 2006, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the pending claims. To further the prosecution of this application, Applicant submits the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1, 13, 17 and 18 have been amended and claims 11 and 12 have been cancelled. Thus, claims 1-10 and 13-18 remain pending in this application.

In particular, claims 1, 13, 17, and 18 have been amended to recite that the workstation support includes a standoff member standoff member extending from the back of a support portion of the workstation support by first and second supports that meet at a junction behind the back of the support portion. These amendments find support at least on page 6, lines 9-12 of the application as filed.

No new matter has been added. The claims as presented are now believed to be in allowable condition.

Objections to the Drawings

The Office Action objects to the Drawings for not showing every element claimed in claims 11 and 12. Claims 11 and 12 have been cancelled thereby mooting the objection.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first and second paragraphs. Claim 1 has been amended to remove the language causing the rejections contained in paragraphs 2-4 of the Office Action. As such, Applicant respectfully asserts that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112 have been overcome.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 9, 13-14 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 1,247,033 (Swartz); claims 3 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Swartz in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,487,536 (Fiscus); claims 4 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Swartz in view of U.S. Patent No. 651,058 (Rogers); claims 6 and 8 stand rejected under 35

U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Swartz. In addition, claims 1,2, 4, 7, 9, 10-14 and 16 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Swartz in U.S. Patent No. 1,361,981 (Goodnow). In addition, claims 1-5, 7-14, 16 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,542,314 (Sullivan) and claims 17-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Swartz in view of Sullivan.

Based on the amendments and remarks contained herein each of the above recited rejections has been overcome and, therefore, Applicant traverses these rejections. At least one reason that each of the independent claims is patentable over the cited references is discussed in greater detail below.

Claims 1-10

As discussed above, claim 1 stands rejected as being anticipated by either Swartz or Sullivan or rendered obvious by Swartz in view of Goodnow.

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to steering wheel workstation support for a laptop computer that includes, *inter alia*, a support portion having a back and a front. The workstation support of claim 1 also includes a standoff member extending from the back of the support portion by first and second supports that meet at a junction behind the back of the support portion.

Applicant does not observe any teaching or suggestion in the cited references to a steering wheel workstation that includes a standoff member extending from the back of the support portion by first and second supports that meet at a junction behind the back of the support portion.

In particular, the only “standoff members” taught in Swartz are the feet bearing reference number 9. These feet do not extend from the back of the support by first and second supports that meet at a junction behind the back of the support portion.

Swartz does not teach or suggest every element of claim 1 and the rejection to claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is improper and should be withdrawn.

With respect to Sullivan, the standoff members 104 and 106 taught therein are arranged and configured to require at least two separate standoff members. These standoff member do not, however, meet at a junction behind the back of the support portion. In particular, standoff members 104 and 106 are portions of standards 92 and 94 (col. 4, lines 41-43). The standards 92 and 94 are separate pieces formed from rigid, circularly sectioned rods (col. 4, lines 32-33). The

rods do not meet at a junction. As such, Sullivan does not teach or suggest each an every element recited in claim 1 and, therefore, the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Finally, Goodnow also fails to teach or suggest a standoff member extending from the back of the support portion by first and second supports that meet at a junction behind the back of the support portion. As such, the rejection of claim 1 over Swartz in view of Goodnow is improper for the reasons discussed above with respect to Swartz and that the shortcomings of Swartz described above are not satisfied by the teachings of Goodnow.

Claims 2-10 depend for from claim 1 and, therefore, are patentable for at least the same reasons.

Claims 13-16

As discussed above, claim 13 stands rejected as being anticipated by either Swartz or Sullivan.

Claim 13, as amended, is directed to a steering wheel workstation support for a laptop computer that includes, *inter alia*, a support portion having a back and a front. The workstation support also includes a standoff member extending from the back of the support portion by first and second supports that meet at a junction behind the back of the support portion.

As discussed above, neither Swartz nor Sullivan, nor any of the other cited references teach or suggest a steering wheel workstation that includes a standoff member extending from the back of the support portion by first and second supports that meet at a junction behind the back of the support portion.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 13 is patentable over the cited references.

Claims 14-16 depend from claim 13 and, therefore, are patentable for at least the same reasons.

Claims 17 and 18

Claims 17 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Swartz in view of Sullivan. Similar to claim 1 above, both claims 17 and 18 have been amended to include a limitation that workstation support that is provided in these method claims includes a standoff member extending from the back of the support portion by first and second supports that meet at a junction behind the back of the support portion.

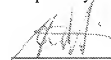
Thus, claims 17 and 18 are both patentable over the cited references and the rejections thereto should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully requests that the examiner reconsider this application in view of all of the art. Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance and early notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,



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